

***Chrysosplenium tetrandrum*** (Lund) Fries  
northern golden carpet  
Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

**Status:** State Sensitive

**Rank:** G5S2

**General Description:** Northern golden carpet is a small, creeping perennial with slender stolons up to 6 in. (1½ dm) long that roots at the nodes and is erect at the tips. Alternate leaves are chiefly clustered at the base or near the tips of stems. Leaves are oval or kidney-shaped and deeply lobed, with petioles up to ¾ of an in. (2 cm) in length. The tiny flowers lack petals and are small and green. They are borne in loose few-flowered clusters at the ends of stems. The fruit is a two-lobed capsule partially embedded in the calyx cup (a partially inferior ovary). The free portion of the seed capsule is shorter than the conjoined portion, and after dehiscence the remnants are 4-lobed and contain the seeds, which are long, lenticular, dark brown, and smooth.

**Identification Tips:** The leaves are alternate and are mainly basal or clustered near the stem ends. The leaf blades are oval to kidney-shaped with lobed margins. Stoloniferous habit and small, apetalous flowers set this species apart from other saxifrages.

**Phenology:** Identifiable May through July.

**Range:** Alaska to British Columbia and in the Rocky Mountains to Colorado. Peripheral in Washington. All populations are on the Okanogan National Forest in Okanogan County.

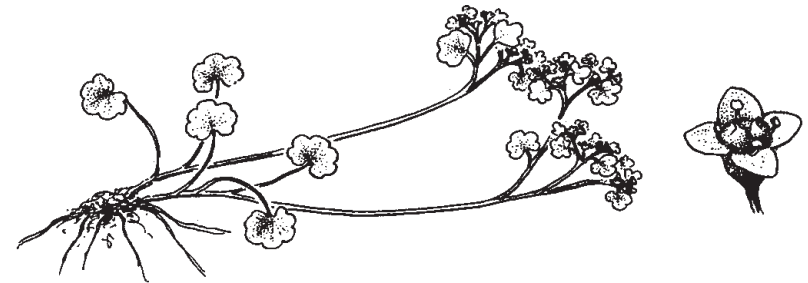
**Habitat:** Occurs in seeps, rock crevices, wet banks, and other open, wet places at lower to mid-elevations. Associated with Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), mosses, grasses, and horsetails (*Equisetum* spp.).

**Ecology:** Scattered on wet streambeds or other wet sites in woods with densely vegetated creek bottom. *C. tetrandrum* is often found on damp, mossy hummocks in areas that are prone to cattle grazing.

**State Status Comments:** Known from six recent and three historical records that all occur in Okanogan County.

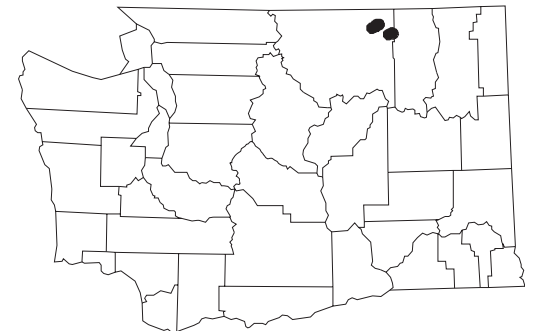
**Inventory Needs:** Additional inventory is needed. The development of a species management guide could provide better protection.

***Chrysosplenium tetrandrum***  
northern golden carpet



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Illustration by John Rumley

Known distribution of  
*Chrysosplenium tetrandrum*  
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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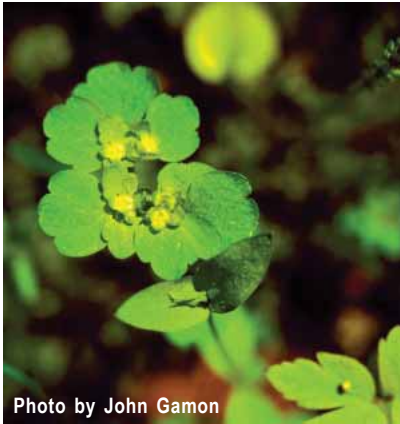


Photo by John Gamon

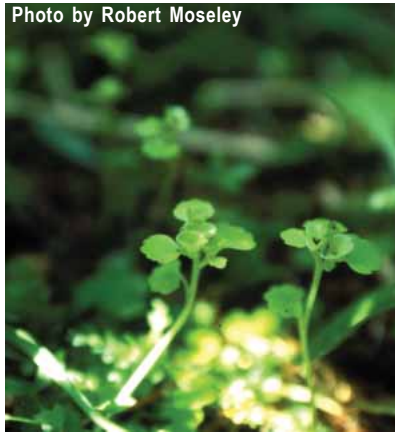


Photo by Robert Moseley



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**Threats and Management Concerns:** Current threats include grazing, road construction, herbicides, timber harvest, and hydrologic alteration.

### **References:**

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 614 pp.

Washington Natural Heritage Program. 1981. *An Illustrated Guide to the Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Vascular Plants of Washington*. Washington State Department of Natural Resources. 328 pp.